

**Section 4, Amendment to Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 3 - 6 and 8 - 14 as follows below. The status of each is indicated.

**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bending apparatus for forming curved bends in a workpiece

comprising:

a) a longitudinally extending support handle having first and second end[s] portions, a lateral offset section spanning between said end portions, each said portion having a longitudinal extent and a longitudinal axis, and said longitudinal axes are disposed parallel to each other;

b) a bending handle having an engaging portion;

~~[a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support, and said second end attached to said bending handle;]~~

c) a die incorporated on said first end portion of said support handle and having a curved bending channel formed therein, said curved bending channel defining a bending plane;

d) a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support handle first end portion, and said second end attached to said bending handle; and

e) an orienting member attached to said second end portion of said support handle, said orienting member having a square [non-circular] cross-sectional shape with axes orthogonal to the side faces of said square, said axes being oriented 45° to said bending plane so that sequential bends oriented in planes at substantially precise orthogonal relationship to each other can be made by alternately clamping adjacent sides of said square orienting member in a fixed position during bending.

2. (Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein;

said second end of said connecting member is pivotally attached to said bending handle.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said die includes gradations formed thereon corresponding to the angles to which [a] said workpiece can be bent by the bending apparatus, and said bending handle has an

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index incorporated thereon to determine ~~[measure]~~ the angular amount of bend imparted by the bending handle on the workpiece.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

a) said axis of said second end portion of said support handle on which said orienting member is mounted lies in said bending plane ~~[includes an offset section attached to said support handle, wherein said offset section is angularly offset with respect to said support handle]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

a) said engaging portion of said bending handle is offset from said handle, and the axis of said bending handle lies in said bending plane ~~[orienting member has a rectangular cross-sectional shape]~~.

6. (Currently Amended) In combination, a vise and bending apparatus for forming curved bends in a workpiece comprising:

a) a longitudinally extending support handle having first and second end portions, a lateral offset section spanning between said end portions, each said portion having a longitudinal extent and a longitudinal axis, and said longitudinal axes are disposed parallel to each other;

b) a bending handle having an engaging portion;

~~[a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support handle, and said second end attached to said bending handle;]~~

c) a die incorporated on said first end portion of said support handle and having a curved bending channel formed therein, said curved bending channel defining a bending plane;

d) a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support handle first end portion, and said second end attached to said bending handle;

e) an orienting member attached to said second end portion of said support

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20 handle, said orienting member having a square ~~[non-circular]~~ cross-sectional shape  
with axes orthogonal to the side faces of said square, said axes being oriented 45° to  
said bending plane so that sequential bends oriented in planes at substantially  
precise orthogonal relationship to each other can be made by alternately clamping  
adjacent sides of said square orienting member in a fixed position during bending;  
and

25 f) a vise having a stationary jaw, and a movable jaw movable toward and away  
from said stationary jaw, said jaws being V-shaped, opposed and oriented so that  
[wherein] said square cross-sectional shape of said orienting member complements and  
is received in the ~~[shape of a]~~ gap between said jaws, and wherein said orienting  
member attaches to said support in only selected orthogonal ~~[a desired]~~ orientations so  
that said bending apparatus may create horizontal or vertical bends in a workpiece  
30 without readjusting said bending apparatus when secured to the vise said bends being at  
substantially precise orthogonal relationship to each other when said orienting  
member or said workpiece is rotated 90° between bending operations.

7. (Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein;  
said second end of said connecting member is pivotally attached to said bending  
handle.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:  
said die includes gradations formed thereon corresponding to the angles to which  
[a] said workpiece can be bent by the bending apparatus, and said bending handle has an  
index incorporated thereon to determine ~~[measure]~~ the angular amount of bend  
5 imparted by the bending handle on the workpiece.

9. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:  
a) said axis of said second end portion of said support handle on which said  
orienting member is mounted lies in said bending plane ~~[includes an offset section~~  
~~attached to said support handle, wherein said offset section is angularly offset with~~  
10 ~~respect to said support handle]~~.

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10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 6 [4], wherein:

a) said engaging portion of said bending handle is offset from said handle, and the axis of said bending handle lies in said bending plane ~~[orienting member has a rectangular cross-sectional shape]~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of bending a workpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a bending apparatus comprising:

i) a support;

ii) a bending handle having an engaging portion;

iii) a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support, and said second end attached to said bending handle;

iv) a die incorporated on said support and having a curved bending channel formed therein, said curved die channel defining a bending plane; and

v) an orienting member attached to said support, said orienting member having a square [non-circular] cross-sectional shape with axes orthogonal to the side faces of said square, said axes being oriented 45° to said bending plane so that sequential bends oriented in planes at substantially precise orthogonal relationship to each other can be made by alternately clamping adjacent sides of said square orienting member in a fixed position during bending;

b) attaching the bending apparatus to a securing device wherein said orienting member orients said bending apparatus to a desired orientation selected from one of two orientations orthogonal to each other;

c) securing ~~[providing]~~ a workpiece to be bent ~~[and securing the workpiece]~~ in the bending apparatus; and

d) operating the bending handle to impart a desired first angular bend on the workpiece wherein the workpiece remains oriented in one of said orthogonal orientations ~~[either horizontally or vertically]~~ with respect to the ground.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, as claimed in Claim 11, further including the steps of:

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a) releasing the workpiece from the securing device;  
b) rotating the bending apparatus with respect to the securing device to orient the bending apparatus to said second orthogonal orientation substantially 90°[E] from its original position in the securing device;  
5 c) resecuring the bending apparatus in the securing device;  
d) repositioning the workpiece in the bending apparatus; and  
e) operating the bending handle to impart a desired second angular bend on the workpiece, said second angular bend being in a plane oriented substantially 90°[E] from the plane of the first angular bend.

13. (Currently Amended) A bending apparatus comprising:

a) a support having first and second ends, said first end having a curved bending channel defining a bending plane formed thereon for receiving a workpiece;

b) a bending handle having an engaging portion;

5 c) a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being pivotally attached to said support, and said second end being attached to said bending handle; and

d) means attached to said second end of said support for orienting said bending apparatus allowing said bending apparatus to produce a desired angular bend in the workpiece, said orienting means having a square ~~non-circular~~ cross-sectional shape with axes orthogonal to the side faces of said square, said axes being oriented 45° to said bending plane so that sequential bends oriented in planes at substantially precise orthogonal relationship to each other can be simply by alternately clamping adjacent sides of said square orienting member in a fixed position during bending.

15 14. (Currently Amended) In combination, a securing device and bending apparatus comprising:

a) a support having first and second ends, said first end having a curved bending channel defining a bending plane formed thereon for receiving a workpiece;

20 b) a bending handle having ~~(an)~~ a workpiece-engaging portion;

c) a connecting member having first and second ends, said first end being

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pivotaly attached to said support, and said second end being attached to said bending handle;

25        d) means attached to said second end of said support for orienting said bending apparatus allowing said bending apparatus to produce a desired angular bend in the workpiece, said orienting means having a square ~~non-circular~~ cross-sectional shape with axes orthogonal to the side faces of said square, said axes being oriented 45° to said bending plane so that sequential bends oriented in planes at substantially precise orthogonal relationship to each other can be made by alternately clamping adjacent sides of said square orienting member in a fixed position during bending;

30        and

e) a securing device having at least two opposing engaging surfaces defining a gap therebetween, one of said engaging surfaces being movable to and away from the other of said engaging surfaces, wherein said square cross-sectional shape of said means for orienting complements ~~a shape-of-a~~ said gap between said engaging surfaces for selectively retaining said orienting means in either of said orthogonal orientations for bending said workpiece.

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End of Section 4, Amendments to Claim.